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February 19, 1999

Dear Interested Parties:

Enclosed is Virginia's policy for the J-1 Visa Waiver Program. It is now required by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) that the physician works a **minimum of three years** in a designated federal health professional shortage area. **Note carefully the ARC forms and policy revisions effective September 19, 1997.** Any employment agreement must include the ARC Liquidated Damages Clause, verbatim as included in this package. Further, the employment contract between the physician and the sponsor **may not** contain a restrictive covenant or non-compete clause which prevents or discourages the physician from continuing to practice in any HPSA after the period of obligation under this policy has expired. **General Surgery has been removed from the list of Primary Care specialties** that can apply for a J-1 Visa Waiver.

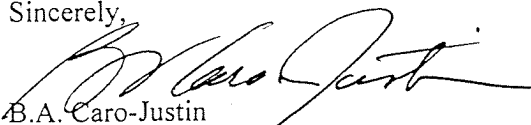
It is recommended that you post openings for practice opportunities at each of the state's medical schools. A mailing list is enclosed for your convenience. When providing evidence of your recruitment efforts, please follow the guidelines outlined in the ARC Federal Co-Chairman's J-1 Visa Waiver Policy. The Virginia Department of Health requires a copy of the application for our records. **Please submit the original plus two copies.**

Effective July 27, 1998 a "user" fee of \$136 is required from each applicant (exchange visitor) for processing. Additional information and a copy of the FEDERAL REGISTER notice are enclosed in the guidelines. **THIS FEE IS NOT REQUIRED FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,** but the waiver recommendation will not be processed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service until the exchange visitor has sent the payment directly to the USIA.

Should you have questions concerning this policy, please contact me at the Center for Primary Care and Rural Health at the address or telephone number below:

Center for Primary Care and Rural Health  
Virginia Department of Health  
P.O. Box 2448, Suite 227  
Richmond, VA 23218  
Telephone: (804) 786-4891

Sincerely,

  
B.A. Caro-Justin  
Program Coordinator

Enclosures